

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments indicated above is respectfully requested. Claims 6-8, 15 and 21 are canceled. Claims 1-5 and 9-14, 16-20, and 22-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26 have been amended, and new Claims 27-30 have been added which depend from independent Claims 1, 14, 20 and 26, respectively. Applicant asserts that all amendments are fully supported in the application as filed and no new matter is added. New Claims 27-30 find full support in the Specification in paragraphs [0027], [0028] and [0061], which paragraphs are so designated in corresponding Published Application US 2007/0050934 A1. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments to the claims are, for example, combinations of limitations that were previously presented in the claims, as well as various clarifying recitations. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the Examiner has already diligently and adequately searched the relevant subject matter, whereby no additional searching is required for the examination of the claims in their current form(s). Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

1. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5 and 9-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,968,591 (“Tanaka”), in view of U.S. patent 7,427,434 (“Busam”). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to require the limitation wherein “a first portion of fibers in the fiber bundle is bonded only by the central joining part and a second portion of fibers in the fiber bundle is bonded by the spot-form parts and by the central joining part.” Support may be found in paragraph [0061], for example. Tanaka discloses only join lines 34 that span the entire

length of the sheet. Accordingly, the join lines 34 of Tanaka do not provide for a portion of fibers in the fiber bundle that is bonded *only* by the central join line 33 and not by the join lines 34. *See* Fig. 3 of Tanaka. Thus, the cited art fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1 and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 9-13 and 24 each depend from claim 1 and should be allowed in view of the amendments to claim 1. Moreover, the cited art does not disclose the additional limitations required by the dependent claims. For example, many of these dependent claims relate to the spacing and positioning of the spot-form parts in relation to other components of the cleaning article. Neither Tanaka (which only discloses bonding lines) nor Busam (which does not even disclose a cleaning article, let alone positioning of spot-form bonds in relation to components of a cleaning article) disclose the particular spot-form bond configurations of the dependent claims. For these additional reasons, allowance of dependent claims 2-5, 9-13 and 24 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 14, 20 and 26 have been amended similarly to claim 1 to require that a first portion of fibers in the fiber bundle is attached only by the central joining part and a second portion of fibers in the fiber bundle is attached by the spot-form bonds and by the central joining part. Accordingly, allowance of claims 14, 20 and 26, as well as their dependent claims (which claim specific positioning and dimensions with respect to the spot-form bonds), is respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding the above amendments to the independent claims, all of the claims are respectfully asserted to be patentable over the cited art because there is insufficient teaching, suggestion or motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tanaka and Busam. While the Supreme Court in *KSR v. Teleflex* (2007) rejected a rigid application of the “teaching,

suggestion or motivation” test that required a showing of some teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the prior art elements in the manner claimed, it did not totally reject the use of “teaching, suggestion or motivation” as a factor in an obviousness analysis. The present rejection of claims 1-5 and 9-14, 16-20, and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because no explicit showing has been made regarding “a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the [prior art] elements” in the manner claimed.

As the Federal Circuit in *Leapfrog v. Fisher-Price* (Fed. Cir. 2007) has recognized in applying *KSR*, common sense must apply when performing an obviousness analysis. Here common sense dictates that it would not have been obvious to combine the cleaning article disclosed in Tanaka with the self-bonded corrugated fibrous web shown in Busam. There is no suggestion in Tanaka that the disclosed cleaning sheet is intended or could otherwise be adapted to replace the solid bonding lines with spot-form joining parts.

The Office Action purports that the following passage from Tanaka provides motivation for replacing the joining lines with spot-form joining parts:

The all-layer join line 33, and the holding sheet 31 and join lines 34,34 may be formed by fusion bonding such as heat sealing, ultrasonic sealing or the like. Alternatively, they may be formed by applying an adhesive or by sewing.

Tanaka, Col. 8, ll. 48-54.

However, this passage merely indicates that the *method* of creating the joining lines may vary – it does not indicate that the *structure* of the joining lines, i.e., a bond that is a continuous

line, may be changed. Thus, the mere mention of alternate bonding options does not teach that the structure of the bond line may be altered, e.g., to be replaced with spot-form joining parts.

Moreover, neither reference recognizes the problem addressed by the claimed invention. Specifically, the cleaning tool of the present invention provides a fiber bundle region with high bulk (thus increasing the ability of the duster to capture and hold various kinds of dust) while at the same time, the spot-form joining part configuration prevents undesirable entanglement of the fibers. *See* paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the instant application. Thus, for this additional reason, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not combine Tanaka and Busam.

Still further, Tanaka teaches away from replacing the join lines 34 with spot-form joining parts. The very disclosure of join lines 34, 34 teaches that all of the fibers should be secured to the sheet. Tanaka also discloses the optional inclusion of side join lines 9, which further secure the fibers in the fiber bundle to the sheet. *See, e.g.*, col. 5, ll. 33-36 and Fig. 1. Thus, Tanaka teaches using two sets of lines, i.e., join lines 34 and side join lines 9, to completely secure the fibers to the sheet. This is the opposite of claimed invention, which now requires a portion of the fibers in the fiber bundle to be bonded only by the central bonding line.

With respect to Busam, there clearly is no teaching with respect to applying the “plurality of dots or points (630)” bonding pattern to a cleaning article because Busam relates to bonding corrugated materials – not to bonding fiber bundles to cleaning sheets. Moreover, there is no suggestion in Busam that the disclosed bonding patterns can be used to bond a fiber bundle to a cleaning sheet.

Therefore, for at least these additional reasons, allowance of claims 1-5 and 9-14, 16-20, and 22-26 is respectfully requested.

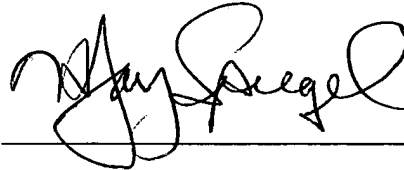
New dependent Claims 27-30 have been added to recite the differing lengths of the individual fibers between the central joining part and the spot-form joining parts. As explained above, full support for the recitations of Claims 27-30 is found in paragraphs [0027], [0028] and [0061] of Published Application No. US 2007/0050934 A1. Since these claims depend from independent Claims 1, 14, 20 and 26, respectively, they are patentable for the same reasons set forth above with regard to those independent claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that claims 1-5 and 9-14, 16-20, and 22-30 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 103 and each defines patentable subject matter. No new matter has been added. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Jay Spiegel", is written over a horizontal line.

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